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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "DDT Directions"...Information from entomologists of the U. S.  
Department of Agriculture.

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Now that you have DDT...how are you using it in your household?

Well...here's some good advice from entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

You'll get the best results from DDT - say the entomologists - if you use it as a residual spray. By residual spray...the scientists mean...a spray that leaves a deposit of poison particles on a treated surface after the oil has evaporated. The insect that later walks or crawls over the treated surface becomes affected by the poison.

All you have to decide is...where will the pest most likely come in contact with the poison. The fly will get it as he walks or rests on the walls or on the ceiling. The roach will pick up particles of DDT as he comes out from behind the baseboards and the moldings. The bedbug will get the poison if it's sprayed behind the tufts of the mattress or in the bed frames where he likes to hide.

So spray the areas where the insects are likely to walk or crawl. Use a 5-percent solution of DDT for best results - say the entomologists. A quart of 5-percent DDT spray is enough to treat an area of about 250 square feet.

In putting the spray on an area - the walls or ceiling or behind baseboards... try to distribute it evenly so that the surface is thoroughly dampened. Smooth finished surfaces will usually take less spray than rough unfinished surfaces before the material begins to run.

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And a point to remember is this: DDT may not be so rapid in action as some other insecticides...but it is persistent. It lasts for a long time when properly applied.

Take care in using DDT just as you would any other poison. See that DDT spray is never applied to food...food containers...or to places where unprotected food may be stored. Do not apply DDT in oil to animals.

When you use a 5-percent DDT spray...be careful to avoid breathing the mists. Wash thoroughly any parts of the body that may come in contact with the solution.

Like all oil solutions...the DDT spray that has oil as a solvent...is a fire hazard. Keep it away from open flames or heated surfaces.

Just one thing more. The scientists have made most of their studies of the insecticidal value of DDT with the technical grade of the chemical. Their conclusions are based on this grade of purity. So for this reason...they recommend that you buy DDT household sprays in which the technical DDT is used. You can check it on the label. The label should also tell you what percent of DDT is in the spray.

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